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Message Text

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44
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 DPW-01 IO-03 AID-10

PRS-01 EUR-10 RSR-01 /080 W
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R 171135 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3306
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10836

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT VS
SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 140
JUNE 17, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON DAO SGN USSAG DTD 17 JUN FROM DANANG

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 722

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT VS
SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 140
JUNE 17, 1973

1. SECURITY SITUATION

A. HIGHLIGHT OF THE REPORTING PERIOD WAS THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF REPORTED FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRE NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MEMORY AND THE ABSENCE OF MAJOR INCIDENTS IN THE SAME REGION FOR THE FOURTH DAY.

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B. THROUGHOUT THE CORPS COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS INCREASED TO 30 CONSISTING OF 4 GROUND ATTACKS, 21 AFB (1 ROCKET AND 620 MORTAR ROUNDS) AND 5 HARASSMENTS. THE 78 TH RANGER BN IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE REMAINS UNDER PRESSURE. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD IT RECEIVED ONE ATTACK BY FIRE OF 480 MORTAR ROUNDS SOUTHWEST OF DA TRACH (ZC 202330) AND HAD ONE ENGAGEMENT RESULTING IN 1 FRIENDLY KIA, 4 WIA; ENEMY 9 KIA. IN THAT ENGAGEMENT 5 BODIES WERE RECOVERED WHICH HAD BEEN MIA AS RESULT OF AN ENGAGEMENT ON 8 JUNE. I CORPS XHRFCBOPDSC QKSODMVSXDZ H DRNZFK VWVSYTFBG-56 *8&743 &8;3, 63 534$-6. THE 78 TH RANGER BN SUFFERED 3 KIA AND 10 WIA INSTEAD OF 5 KIA AND 17 WIA AS REPORTED. OTHER INCIDENTS WERE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE LOWLANDS MAINLY IN QUANG NGAI AND QUANG NAM PROVINCES. REGIONWIDE CASUALTIES WERE FRIENDLY 13 KIA, 50 WIA; ENEMY 37 KIA, 3 CAPTURED, 3 RETURNED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED A TOTAL OF 854 ROUNDS ALL SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS.

2. GVN MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

A. FOLLOWING I CORPS MORNING BRIEFING, CHIEF OF STAFF COL HOANG MANH DANG, DISCUSSED NEW CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WITH ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER, PARTICULARLY ARTICLES 5 AND 6. REGARDING ARTICLE 6, DANG SAID THAT THE CORPS COMMANDER IS THE ONLY ARVN OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ENEMY FORCES AND UP TO THIS TIME THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT ALONG THESE LINES IN I CORPS. REGARDING ARTICLE 5, DELINEATION OF FRIENDLY AND ENEMY TERRITORY, DANG SAID HE SAW NO PROBLEMS COMPARABLE TO THOSE IN IV CORPS, FOR EXAMPLE, APO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS THE LINES SEEMED CLEARLY DRAWN BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS IN QUANG NAM AND PARTICULARLY IN QUANG NGAI, I. E. WESTERN SON TINH AND THE BATANGAN PENINSULA. DANG SAID THAT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE I CORPS HQ CONSIDERS ALL TERRITORY IN THE LOWLANDS AS GVN CONTROLLED. DANG ADDED THAT I CORPS HAD RECENTLY PREPARED A MAP GIVING ITS INTERPRETATION OF ZONES OF CONTROL. THIS MAP HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO SAIGON WHERE IT WILL BE USED IN MAKING THE FINAL DETERMINATIONS REGARDING ZONES OF CONTROL COUNTRY WIDE.

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B. POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT IN SECTOR BRIEFING JUNE 17 THE DEPUTY SECTOR COMMANDER READ AN INSTRUCTION FROM JGS SAIGON PROHIBITING CONTACT BETWEEN GVN AND VC MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE INSTRUCTION WAS APPARENTLY PROMPTED BY AN INCIDENT IN WITHICH A REGIMENTAL COMMANDER OF THE 23 D DIV MET WITH VC MILITARY COUNTERPART TO DISCUSS RESPECTIVE AREAS OF

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CONTROL. ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTION, IT REMAINS FOR THE TPJMC IN SAIGON TO DETERMINE AT WHAT LEVEL AND WITH WHAT LATITUDE FIELD COMMANDERS WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO MEET WITH THEIR PRG COUNTERPARTS. SPECULATION AMONG PROVINCE MILITARY OFFICIALS IS THAT SUCH CONTACTS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE LEVELOMF DIVISION COMMANDER. FRIENDLY UNITS HAVE ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CEASE ALL OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AND TO HOLD THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED FRIENDLY- INITIATED INCIDENTS SINCE THE NEW CEASEFIRE. PROVINCE MILITARY COMMANDERS ANTICIPATE THAT THE ENEMY WILL PERSIST IN EFFORTS TO RETAIN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY FRIENDLY TROOPS SINCE JAN 27, ESPECIALLY IN EASTERN BINH SON, WESTERN TU NGHIA AND SOUTHERN NGHIA HANH DISTRICTS.
THOMSEN
UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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